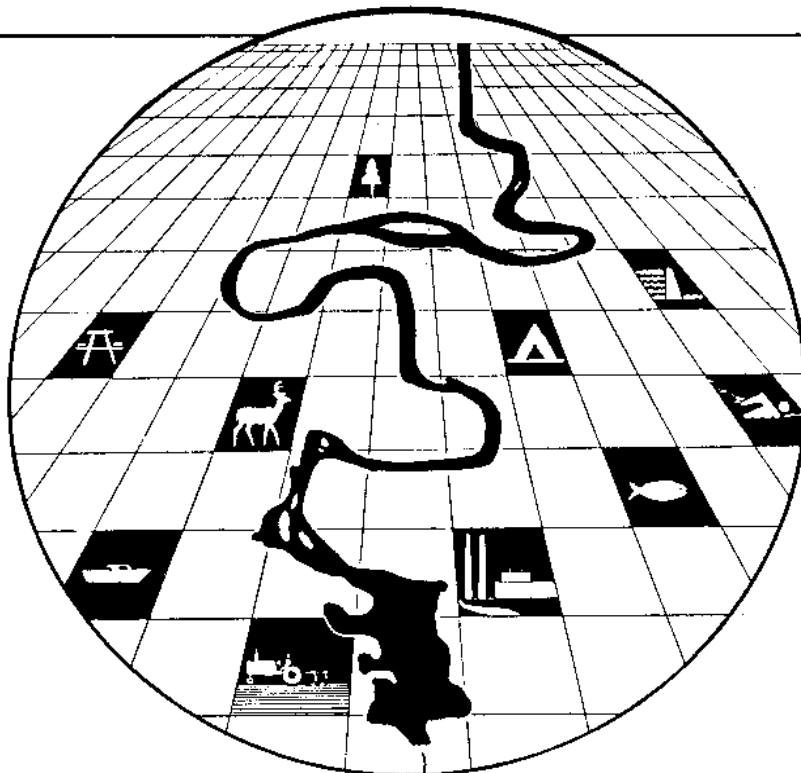


# NICKAJACK RESERVOIR PLAN

## Planning Process



## PLANNING PROCESS

A multidisciplinary TVA team undertook a detailed planning process that resulted in the land use designations presented in this plan. Both public input (Appendix A) and information from TVA specialists (Appendix B) were carefully analyzed.

TVA specialists provided information used to develop an extensive computerized data base about physical resource characteristics of the land, existing uses of TVA land and adjoining property, economic conditions in the two-county reservoir area, and environmental constraints. Data such as population, economic, and historical information were gathered from the two counties through which the reservoir flows. More detailed parts of the data base--such site-specific data as recreation facilities and wildlife resources--were gathered from a study area that extended about one-half mile from TVA's property line. Appendix B contains a description of the data base.

In addition to the resource data, local residents and users of the reservoir are important in determining suitable uses for TVA's reservoir land. During the first week of September 1987, TVA staff met with Nickajack Reservoir area groups--civic clubs, government officials, and business associations--to provide information about the planning process and to encourage public involvement. Contacts were also made with the media in the reservoir area.

Subsequently, 125 people attended two public workshops held in Chattanooga and Jasper, Tennessee, also in September 1987. The participants provided information about (1) what they valued about the reservoir, (2) what improvements and changes in the management of TVA land around the reservoir would increase its value to them, and (3) what they foresaw as the major problems or issues regarding management of the reservoir over the next 10 years. The comments from both workshops, as well as all written and telephone correspondence regarding Nickajack Reservoir land use, were compiled and sent to approximately 1,100 individuals, agencies, and organizations, including all workshop participants, for confirmation and further comment in November 1987.

The planning team attended the public workshops and used the public comments, along with technical advice from TVA staff, to develop the management objectives described in the PLANNING ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES section of this plan. These objectives guided the team's analysis of all available information and their subsequent identification of appropriate land uses.

TVA specialists provided the team with capability ratings of excellent, good, fair, or poor for all possible uses on each tract of TVA land. The ratings were based on an analysis of specific criteria that indicate whether a tract is physically capable of supporting a given use. Capability criteria include various engineering and physical site characteristics of the land, such as slope, soil productivity, erosion hazard, and access to navigable water. Appendix B contains a description of the specific criteria and capability ratings for each proposed use.

TVA staff also provided the planning team with proposed uses for the TVA land based on the capability ratings and other suitability factors such as previous investments, interest by other

agencies and organizations, TVA program objectives, and local or regional needs. The team compared maps of all the proposed uses with such mapped resource data such as wetlands, floodplain locations, threatened or endangered species, and prime farmland to identify possible constraints or conflicts with proposed uses. The team then analyzed the suitability of potential uses by reviewing additional information: the economic conditions of the reservoir area, the reservoir management objectives, public comment, and TVA land management goals and policies. Through discussion, the most suitable use or uses for each tract of TVA land were identified.

After designating each tract of land for one or more compatible use(s), the team reviewed the plan in terms of how it met the reservoir management goals and planning objectives. In areas where the team felt the objectives had not been met, adjustments were made to the plan.

The plan was then reviewed within TVA, and various organizations within TVA provided the team with comments on and suggested revisions to the plan. The team resolved the conflicting concerns raised by this internal review, and the initial draft was revised and reprinted. The revised draft plan was mailed to over 800 individuals, agencies, and organizations, in March 1988, for their review and comment.

Fifty-five people attended two public review meetings held in Chattanooga and Jasper, Tennessee, in April 1988 to receive comments on the draft plan. In addition, more than 1,000 individuals either wrote letters or telephoned TVA's Citizen Action Line regarding the plan.

The major issue identified through the public review process concerned the designation of TVA's Little Cedar Mountain (LCM) property for commercial and/or public recreation development. Many valid points were raised both for recreation development and for nondevelopmental wildlife management and related uses of this land. After carefully considering all of the public comments, the team determined that additional unbiased information, including a recreation development feasibility study prepared by an outside consultant, was required to reach consensus on the designation of LCM.

In September 1988 TVA selected Economics Research Associates, a national land use economics consulting firm specializing in recreation development, to provide the following information:

- Recreation Needs Analysis - To determine the demand for at least two levels of recreation facility development;
- Development Concepts - To identify ranges of facilities, acreage requirements, environmental impacts, and direct and indirect costs for each level of development;
- Feasibility and Market Analysis - To determine the economic feasibility of, and to identify, marketing and implementation strategies and developer/operator options for each level of development; and

- **Economic Impact Analysis** - To provide an assessment of benefits and an assessment of costs to the local area, State, and region which would result from each level of development.

Concurrent with the selection of an appropriate consultant, the team compiled and prepared responses to the public comments. This "Summary of Public Comments and TVA Staff Responses" was mailed in October 1988 to all those who provided comments on the draft plan. With the exception of the LCM issue, the planning team's responses provided recommended revisions to the plan based on the public input, review of the data base, and consideration of the reservoir management goals and objectives.

In April 1989 the feasibility study was completed. It found that private sector commercial recreation development at LCM was not financially feasible and recommended that public sector development be pursued. Based on the study's findings, the planning team recommended that the LCM property be allocated for public recreation development only. A public meeting was held in August 1989 at Jasper, Tennessee, to present the findings of the study and recommendations for final revisions to the draft plan. Nine persons attended the meeting.

The TVA Board of Directors approved the final Nickajack Reservoir Land Management Plan on January 23, 1990.